

OPINION 1880

PLUTONIINAE Bollman, 1893 (Arthropoda, Chilopoda): spelling emended to PLUTONIUMINAE, so removing the homonymy with PLUTONIINAE Cockerell, 1893 (Mollusca, Gastropoda)

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; Chilopoda; Trilobita; PLUTONIINAE; PLUTONIUMINAE; *Plutonia*; *Plutonium*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881 (Chilopoda) is PLUTONIUM-.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Plutonia* Morelet in Stabile, 1864 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Viquesnelia atlantica* Morelet, 1860 (Gastropoda);
 - (b) *Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Plutonium zwierleini* Cavanna, 1881 (Chilopoda).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *atlantica* Morelet, 1860, as published in the binomen *Viquesnelia atlantica* (specific name of the type species of *Plutonia* Morelet in Stabile, 1864) (Gastropoda);
 - (b) *zwierleini* Cavanna, 1881, as published in the binomen *Plutonium zwierleini* (specific name of the type species of *Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881) (Chilopoda).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) PLUTONIINAE Cockerell, 1893, type genus *Plutonia* Morelet in Stabile, 1864 (Gastropoda);
 - (b) PLUTONIUMINAE Bollman, 1893, type genus *Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above) (Chilopoda);
- (5) The name *Plutonia* Hicks, 1871 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (a junior homonym of *Plutonia* Morelet in Stabile, 1864) (Trilobita).
- (6) The name PLUTONIINAE Bollman, 1893 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology (spelling emended to PLUTONIUMINAE by the ruling in (1) above) (Chilopoda).

History of Case 2946

An application to remove the homonymy between the family-group names PLUTONIINAE Cockerell, 1893 (based on the gastropod generic name *Plutonia* Morelet in Stabile, 1864) and PLUTONIINAE Bollman, 1893 (based on the chilopod generic name *Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881) was received from Dr Rowland M. Shelley (*North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*) and

Dr Thierry Backeljau (*Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels, Belgium*) on 15 August 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 150–152 (June 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The authors of the application proposed that the homonymy between the family-group names should be removed by emending Cockerell's mollusc name (which they believed to be the junior homonym) to PLUTONIAINAE. A comment from Dr Philippe Bouchet (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France*), published in BZN 53: 120 (June 1996), pointed out that, in contrast to statements in the application (para. 2), PLUTONIINAE Cockerell was the senior homonym.

Drs Backeljau & Shelley (BZN 53: 120) revised their application to propose that the chilopod name be emended to PLUTONIUMINAE, whilst leaving the mollusc name unchanged. The revised proposals were offered for voting.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 120. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1997 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 2: Kraus and Štys.

Dupuis abstained.

No vote was received from Cogger.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting for, Bouchet commented: 'It would have been more elegant if the stem of *Plutonium* had been ruled to be PLUTON-, hence PLUTONINAE, rather than the grammatically barbaric PLUTONIUM-'. Voting against, Kraus commented: 'Cockerell's family-group name has just one month's priority over Bollman's but both names are more than a hundred years old. Hence, 'priority' should not be used as a decisive argument in this case. The applicants did not even mention usage, a much more important consideration. *Plutonia* is known only from the Azores and there is limited specialized literature on this slug, whereas *Plutonium* is a genus of scolopendromorph chilopods much more widely distributed (in the Mediterranean), the morphological characteristics of which have played a rôle in various discussions on phylogenetic relationships within the Chilopoda. Accordingly, the proposal presented in the original application was preferable'. Štys commented: 'If the original proposal to change the name of the gastropod subfamily had been retained I would have voted for it. I cannot support the revised proposal since it has been modified on grounds of priority which do not apply in this case'. Abstaining, Dupuis commented: 'I refuse to vote on this case because in my personal view the time between the last comment and the distribution of voting papers was too short. The last comment was less than one year old'. [Editorial note. The comment was from the authors of the application. An explanation of procedure followed in sending cases for voting was given on BZN 54: 53–54, March 1997].

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- atlantica*, *Viquesnelia*, Morelet, 1860, *Iles Açores. Notice sur l'histoire naturelle des Açores suivie d'une description des mollusques terrestres de cet Archipel*, p. 139.
- Plutonia* Hicks, 1871, *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, **27**(1): 399.
- Plutonio* Morelet, 1864, in Stabile, J., *Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali*, **7**: 121.
- PLUTONIINAE** Bollman, 1893, *United States National Museum Bulletin*, **46**: 165, 168 (a now incorrect original spelling of PLUTONIUMINAE).
- PLUTONIINAE** Cockerell, 1893, *The Conchologist*, **2**(7): 186.
- Plutonium* Cavanna, 1881, *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana*, **13**: 169.
- PLUTONIUMINAE** Bollman, 1893, *United States National Museum Bulletin*, **46**: 165, 168 (spelled as PLUTONIINAE, now incorrect).
- zwierleinii*, *Plutonium*, Cavanna, 1881, *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana*, **13**: 169.